



October 29, 2010

Dear Principal,

In an effort to provide a better understanding of the necessity and use of the fire apparatus access roads (also known as Fire Lanes) around your facility, we have put together a short list of items for your consideration during planning of events and other times where large volumes of parents will be on site and leaving their vehicles stationary or parked. Fire lanes are incredibly important to public safety to provide the fastest and most efficient response to your facilities during a time of need and we want to work with every business and facility in Frisco to ensure these access points remain unobstructed.

- By ordinance, a fire lane parking violation can be as much as \$250.00 per violation.
- Fire, EMS and police vehicles require larger than standard access due to their size and the fact that these vehicles act as a mobile working platform for the firefighters, paramedics and police officers during an emergency. They are not just a method of transportation to the emergency; tools, fire hose lines, and aerial stabilization jacks all require access around these vehicles that creates a "work zone" around them that is much bigger than the actual vehicle.
- Vehicles that are left unattended in fire lanes will create obstructions to these emergency vehicles and "work zones". In addition, firefighters and police officers do not know if these vehicles are occupied as they approach, therefore they must significantly reduce their speed and focus their attention to ensure children or parents do not attempt to exit the vehicles as the emergency vehicle approaches.
- Vehicles obstructing fire lanes may also cause the first responders to adjust their tactics on a particular incident, opting instead for methods that are not always optimal.
- Many times, violators will say they are only going to "be a minute", however many times emergency apparatus can arrive, pull fire hose and prepare to enter the building in less than 60 seconds. A violator may be required to exit the building on another side of the campus or may be required to stay in a particular location during a lock down, effectively leaving their vehicle obstructing first responder's access to the facility.

Fire lanes are the primary method in which first responders will use to get to your facility to provide care to your school children and staff. Please help us communicate with your visitors that fire lanes are not for parking, not even for "a minute". We prefer to work with you to insure that we are always able to reach you when you need us. Please help us communicate the importance of this access to your visitors, and help us reduce the need to use ticketing as a means to enforce this vital path.

Your questions, comments or concerns are welcome.

Sincerely,
Paul Siebert
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